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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 001685

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [KMPI](#) [BA](#) [GR](#)

SUBJECT: EUR A/S FRIED MEETS GREEK FM MOLYVIATIS AT FORUM
FOR THE FUTURE

Classified By: DCM Susan L. Ziadeh for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (SBU) Meeting held on November 12, 2005, 12:00, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Manama, Bahrain.

2. (SBU) Participants:

U.S.

EUR A/S Dan Fried

Leslie Tsou, NEA Watcher from Embassy London

Michael Mussi (Embassy notetaker)

Greece

Foreign Affairs Minister Petros Molyviatis

Ambassador Charalabos Rokanas, Secretary General of the

Foreign Ministry

Ambassador Constantine Rallis, Director of the Diplomatic
Cabinet of Ministers

3. (C) Summary: Meeting with A/S Dan Fried on the margins of the Forum for the Future, Greek Foreign Minister Molyviatis urged against United Nations Special Representative for Macedonia Nimitz offering a third proposal too soon, as Greece would be compelled to reject it absent adequate time to prepare. Regarding Kosovo, Molyviatis suggested that the Serbs need to be offered the promise that they will be brought into the European fold to alleviate the pain of losing Kosovo and possibly Montenegro. He urged that Montenegro be encouraged to delay the referendum on independence as this may push Serbia over the edge. On Cyprus, Molyviatis urged the U.S. to tolerate Cypriot President Papadopoulos' aggressive style. Molyviatis expressed that he is optimistic for the first time in his diplomatic career about Turkey's recognition of Cyprus. End summary.

4. (C) In a meeting on the sidelines of the Forum for the Future, A/S Fried expressed U.S. appreciation to FM Molyviatis for Greece's contribution to the Fund for the Future. He said that Greece's example, along with Denmark, Switzerland, Spain and other nations, shows that even non-G8 countries, some of which may differ with the U.S. on regional issues such as the war in Iraq, can still support initiatives that are in the common interest. FM Molyviatis said that Greece contributed for two reasons: as a country in the region it has an interest in the development of the region; and Greece believes in President Bush's vision to promote democracy in the Middle East. He cautioned that the road will not be easy as the region has built-up resistance to reform, but that this should not prevent our efforts. A/S Fried added that we will all need to be patient, yet unyielding in our commitment to promote democratic reforms.

Bumps in the Road toward Peace in the Balkans

5. (C) Molyviatis told A/S Fried that Greece is working to find a solution to the emotionally and politically charged issue of an official name for Macedonia (he used "FYROM" throughout). He explained that the GOG would like to move ahead, but the Greek public is resistant; the GOG has already lost much political capital over this issue. Molyviatis said that the GOG extended itself to accept United Nations Special Representative for Macedonia Matthew Nimitz' first proposal, but that it could have gone no further. He said Nimitz' second proposal was not a compromise but accepted 99 percent of the other side's position, and was therefore not acceptable to Greece. Due to the sensitivity of this issue in the minds of the Greek public, Molyviatis urged that Nimitz not present a third proposal in the near future because the GOG would be compelled to reject it; it will be very difficult for the GOG to give ground too soon. A/S Fried said that Nimitz is independent. Molyviatis said that even if he believes this statement, the Greek public does not. He urged that all parties remain patient allowing Greece to heal politically and Macedonia to institute reforms; the longer Nimitz waits, the more likely the possibility for a positive outcome.

6. (C) Regarding Kosovo, Molyviatis told A/S Fried that the GOG has pledged support for Maarti Ahtisaari, the former Finnish President now the UN special envoy on Kosovo final status. He explained that the troika of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), Romania, Greece and Croatia, the most recent, present and future chairs

respectively of the organization, will be visiting Pristina and Belgrade in the first week of December. Molyviatis recognized that Kosovo is moving toward some form of independence, but expressed concern that Serbian politics are weak and that the Serbian government has not prepared its public to accept Kosovo's move. He suggested that Serbia needs to be offered a promise of inclusion in the European community in parallel with Kosovo's progress. This incentive will make the loss of Kosovo more palatable; however, in the absence of this hope, he said the tenuous situation on the ground may unravel. Molyviatis added that the timing of the referendum on independence for Montenegro may be too much for Serbia at this time. He urged that Montenegro be encouraged to postpone their referendum to avoid a breakdown of the status quo.

Greece's Comfort Zone to the North

17. (C) Molyviatis described the good relations Athens now has with Belgrade. He explained that Serbia was long the greatest power in the Balkans, and blamed Yugoslavia for inciting the Greeks to civil war following World War II. He said that now Serbia is a group of fragmented states that no longer present a security threat to Greece. The Serbs had brought the break-up on themselves. He admitted that the entrance of these countries into the European Union (EU) would be long in coming, but that as they progress, they will join on their own merit. Greece is in favor of EU enlargement, but that the EU may not be capable of enlargement in the near future.

Long Years of Problems in Cyprus

18. (C) Regarding Cyprus, A/S Fried expressed concern about the recent aggressive and angry approach of Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos to Cypriot reunification issues. Molyviatis said that he did not think the U.S. was reading Papadopoulos correctly. He said Papadopoulos is not just angry at the U.S. and Turkey, but at everyone; he has an angry nature. Molyviatis said that he has personally suggested to Papadopoulos that he tone down his aggressive rhetoric and agreed to talk with him again. He asked A/S Fried to give Papadopoulos a chance to prove himself. Papadopoulos is currently building bridges to European capitals including France. He understands that it is in Cyprus' national interest that Turkey be with Europe. He had two chances to veto Turkey's EU accession process and did not, even though Turkey had "humiliated" him. Turkey's support of the Annan plan was a public relations coup for Turkey, making Cyprus appear the obstruction to progress.

19. (C) Molyviatis said that the U.S. and Greece have the same ultimate objectives in Cyprus. He expressed that he is optimistic for the first time in his nearly 50 year career as a Greek diplomat. For the first time Turkey has an incentive to recognize Cyprus, and he is confident that eventually Turkey will do so, but only under a settlement.

110. (U) This message has been cleared by A/S Fried.

MONROE